

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:IR SHUM

SUBJECT:IRANIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION AFFILIATES WITH
INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

1. THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, HEADQUARTERED
IN NEW YORK, HAS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE, DATED
JULY 18, 1978:

2. QUOTE THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS TODAY
(JULY 18, 1978) ANNOUNCED THAT THE IRANIAN SOCIETY FOR THE
DEFENSE OF FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS, FORMED IN LATE 1977 TO
PROMOTE CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS IN IRAN, JOINS NEARLY
FORTY GROUPS IN COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD AS A LEAGUE-
AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION. IN ANNOUNCING THE ACTION TAKEN BY
THE LEAGUE BOARD ON JUNE 16, 1978, JOSE A. CABRANES, LEAGUE
VICE-PRESIDENT, EXPRESSED THE BOARD'S HOPE THAT "THE LEAGUE
AND THE IRANIAN SOCIETY WILL COOPERATE CLOSELY IN WORKING
TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRAN GUARANTEED BY THE IRANIAN
CONSTITUTION AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS." "OUR HOPE IS
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THAT AN AFFILIATION WITH THE LEAGUE WILL AFFORD SOME
MEASURE OF INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND PROTECTION TO
SOCIETY MEMBERS," CABRANES ADDED. IN APRIL 1978, THE HOMES
OF THREE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY WERE BOMBED, INCLUDING THE

HOME OF MR. MEHDI BAZARGAN, A CO-FOUNDER OF THE SOCIETY.
A NON-POLITICAL GROUP, THE SOCIETY WAS FORMED BY THIRTY

IRANIANS PROMINENT IN ARTISTIC, LEGAL, CULTURAL, AND JOURNALISTIC ENDEAVORS. IN RECENT MONTHS THE SOCIETY HAS CONDEMNED VIOLATIONS OF RIGHTS IN IRAN. IN A JUNE 28 LETTER TO IRANIAN PRIME MINISTER J. AMOUZEGAR, THE SOCIETY PROTESTED THE "EXTREME VIOLENCE AND CRUELTY" USED BY MILITARY AND POLICE FORCES IN STOPPING A PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION IN THE CITY OF BABOSAR. THE SOCIETY CONDEMNS "EVERY TYPE OF TRANSGRESSION OF UNIVERSAL RIGHTS AND THE VIOLATION OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS," AND, ACCORDING TO THE SOCIETY CHARTER, "WITH ALL THE POWER AND POSSIBILITIES AT OUR DISPOSAL WE WILL STAND TO DEFEND THE INDIVIDUALS, SOCIETIES, AND GROUPS WHOSE HUMAN RIGHTS ARE SUBJECT TO OPPRESSION AND AGRESSION. THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, FOUNDED IN 1942, IS AN INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION WHICH SEEKS TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS WORLDWIDE. END QUOTE VANCE

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